



FAX COVER SHEET

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Attention: MAIL STOP: ISSUE FEE

Company: USPTO

Re: App. No. 09/910,090; Docket No.: 2001-0226A

Cover Message:

Please find attached the papers associated with payment of the issue fee in the above-referenced case.

Respectfully submitted,

The Law Office of Thomas M. Isaacson

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Application/Control Number: 09/910,090
Art Unit: 2655

Docket No.: 2001-0226A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
Mehryar Mohri : Attorney Ref.: **2001-0226A**
Serial No.: **09/910,090** : Art Unit: **2655**
Filed: **July 20, 2001** : Examiner: **James S. Wozniak**

FOR: SYSTEM AND METHOD OF EPSILON REMOVAL OF WEIGHTED AUTOMATA AND TRANSDUCERS

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

MAIL STOP: ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant provides the following comments on the Examiner's Statement on Reasons for Allowance.

On page 3 of the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner provided a discussion of the Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance that referenced claim 30 but then proceeded to discuss limitations that are not within claim 30. For example, the Examiner noted that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a computer readable medium storing a computer program for implemented a program for use in natural language processing.... Applicant notes that claim 30 recites a computer readable medium programmed to operate a method of removing an empty string term from an automaton A having a set of states "p" and a set of states "q". There is no limitation in claim 30 that the method practiced is limited to natural language processing. The invention recited in claim 30 could be applied to any automaton and not just one being utilized for natural language processing. Page 31 of the Application states that the e-removal algorithm and other algorithms disclosed may "clearly have application outside of speech processing." Therefore, Applicant does not concede that the claims are limited to natural language processing.



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Further, the Examiner referenced an equation on page 17 regarding how to calculate an epsilon closure. Claim 30 merely recites, however, computing an e-closure for each state "p" of the automaton A. The equation listed on page 17 is not found in the claim and therefore there may be other ways or other equations used to perform this calculation. Similarly, the Examiner referenced equations on pages 17 - 18 for removing each transition labeled with an empty string. This step does not have to be performed by the specific equations referenced. Accordingly, Applicant does not concede that the steps recited in claim 30 have to be performed by the specific equations on pages 17 and 18 of the specification in that those equations are not recited in claim 30.

In sum, Applicant generally notes that the Examiner's statement discusses a number of limitations that are not found in claim 30. Applicant submits that the limitations as recited in claim 30 (computing an e-closure for each state "p" of the automaton A; removing each transition labeled with an empty string....) recite sufficient subject matter to be patentable without incorporating limitations from the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses any claim interpretation that would be based on the Examiner's statement wherein the statement adds or discusses limitations that are not purposefully recited in the claim.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned with any questions or for further clarification.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Sept. 2, 2005

By: Thomas M. Isaacson/

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